

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 17, 2005, claims 5 – 10, 12, 31, 32, 34, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in the remaining pending claims includes features which are not anticipated or which are not suggested or rendered obvious by the cited references taken in any permissible combination. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 5 -7, 9, 12, 31, 32, 35 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suda (JP2001-074180) in view of Kimura (JP2001-141170). The Examiner contends that Suda discloses all of the claimed invention except for various claimed features, such as the contact member having an arm, etc.

By this Communication, claims 7, 9, and 35 have been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from claims 12 and 38.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, as combined by the Examiner, fail to disclose a contact member mounted in a quick connector body or housing in which the contact member is in the form of an annular ring with an arm extending therefrom for engagement with an inner surface of the bore in the endform and at least one locating member extending from the annular ring discretely from the arm for centering the annular ring relative to the endform.

In Suda, four arms extend from a cylindrical collar through the open end of the endform and into the bore in the endform into contact with an inner surface of the endform. Each of the arms includes a narrow diameter neck which engages the surface of the endform forming the open end of the endform. However, each neck and arm are one continuous member extending from the cylindrical collar. Kimura lacks an arm.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 12 and 28 includes features which are not suggested or rendered obvious by Suda, taken by itself or in combination with Kimura as posed by the Examiner. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 12 and claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 38 to include all of the features thereof. By dependency, such claims are also

submitted to patentably define over any permissible combination of Suda and Kimura as posed by the Examiner.

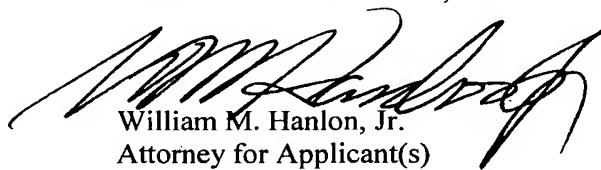
New claims 39 and 40 have been added to respectively depend from claims 12 and 38. Claims 39 and 40 find fully support in the original specification and drawings. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references fail to disclose a plurality of locating members extending from the annular ring of a contact member which are separate from an arm engaging the ring and an inner surface in the endform to center the ring relative to the endform as set forth by the Applicant. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 39 and 40 patentably defines over the cited references.

The rejections of claims 8 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 5, 6, 12, 31, 32 and 38 – 40 patentably defines over the cited references, taken in any permissible combination. Thus, such claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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